



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: HARRIS' BOSTON TRIP MAKES HIS VETO ILLEGAL

Today, Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, Hawaii Kai) asked for a ruling from the Office of Council Services regarding Mayor Jeremy Harris' veto of Bill 35, relating to the taxation of agricultural property. Councilmember Djou stated, "The City Charter is very clear that the powers of the executive branch of government transfer to the managing director whenever the mayor leaves Hawaii. Because Jeremy Harris has been in Vermont and New York over the past several weeks and is currently in Massachusetts, Harris' veto of Bill 35 has no force or effect as he simply does not have the power to veto bills when he is out of state."

"This further highlights the problems caused by the Mayor's prolonged absence from Honolulu. Mayor Harris' conduct just illustrates the need to pass my bill requiring the Mayor to provide notice when he is leaving Hawaii and ceding power to an unelected official," declared Councilmember Djou.

Mayor Harris has been traveling outside of Hawaii for most of July and has spent nearly 40% of the working days in 2004 traveling around the world. Councilmember Djou introduced Bill 45 requiring the mayor to give the public notice when he leaves Hawaii.

Honolulu City Charter Sec. 6-106(2) clearly states, "in the temporary absence of the mayor from the state or temporary disability of the mayor, the managing director shall act as mayor."

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